

## EXHIBIT 2

-----  
|SENATE RULES COMMITTEE | AB 1179|  
|Office of Senate Floor Analyses |  
|1020 N Street, Suite 524 |  
|(916) 445-6614 Fax: (916) |  
327-4478

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1179  
Author: Yee (D)  
Amended: 9/8/05 in Senate  
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE : 4-0, 9/8/05  
AYES: Dunn, Cedillo, Escutia, Kuehl  
NO VOTE RECORDED: Morrow, Ackerman, Figueroa

ASSEMBLY FLOOR : Not relevant

SUBJECT : Violent video games

SOURCE : Author

DIGEST : This is a new bill. Prior to the Senate Floor Amendments of 9/2/05, this bill authorized foster parents, under certain conditions, to administer injections for diabetes shock or other prescribed medication to a foster child.

Senate Floor Amendments of 9/8/05 made a technical change by adding a co-author.

Senate Floor Amendments of 9/2/05 now constitute that bill. The amendments insert language located in AB 450 (Yee), which is on third reading in the Assembly. As amended, this bill makes legislative findings that prolonged exposure to violent video games may increase feelings of aggression and cause psychological harm to minors, and that

CONTINUED

□

AB 1179  
Page

2

the state has a compelling interest in preventing such harms. The bill makes it unlawful for a person to sell or rent a video game that is labeled as a "violent video game," as defined, to a minor under 18 years old. The bill

also requires specified labeling for the purpose of identifying violent video games.

ANALYSIS : Existing law regulates the sale of certain merchandise, such as political items and sports memorabilia.

This bill requires violent video games to be labeled as specified and would prohibit the sale or rental of those violent video games, as defined, to minors. The bill provides that a person who violates the act shall be liable in an amount of up to \$1,000 for each violation.

The bill contains the following findings and declarations:

- 1.Exposing minors to depictions of violence in video games, including sexual and heinous violence, makes those minors more likely to experience feelings of aggression, to experience a reduction of activity in the frontal lobes of the brain, and to exhibit violent antisocial or aggressive behavior.
- 2.Even minors who do not commit acts of violence suffer psychological harm from prolonged exposure to violent video games.
- 3.The state has a compelling interest in preventing violent, aggressive, and antisocial behavior, and in preventing psychological or neurological harm to minors who play violent video games.

"Violent video game" means a video game in which the range of options available to a player includes killing, maiming, dismembering, or sexually assaulting an image of a human being, if those acts are depicted in the game in a manner that does either of the following:

- 1.Comes within all of the following descriptions:
  - A. A reasonable person, considering the game as a

□

3

AB 1179  
Page

- whole, would find appeals to a deviant or morbid interest of minors.
- B. It is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the community as to what is suitable for minors.
  - C. It causes the game, as a whole, to lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.
- 2.Enables the player to virtually inflict serious injury upon images of human beings or characters with substantially human characteristics in a manner which is especially heinous, cruel, or depraved in that it involves torture or serious physical abuse to the victim.

A suspected violation of this bill may be reported to a city attorney, county counsel, or district attorney by a parent, legal guardian, or other adult acting on behalf of a minor to whom a violent video game has been sold or rented. A violation of this title may be prosecuted by any city attorney, county counsel, or district attorney.

FISCAL EFFECT : Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No  
Local: No

SUPPORT : (Verified 8/30/05) (as listed on the Assembly Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism and Internet Media Committee analysis for AB 450)

Honorable Cruz Bustamante, Lieutenant Governor  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
California Alliance Against Domestic Violence  
California Commission on the Status of Women  
California Psychiatric Association  
California Psychological Association  
California State Conference of the National Association of Colored People  
California State PTA  
Capitol Resource Institute  
Common Sense Media  
Feather River College  
Friends Committee on Legislation  
Girl Scout Councils of California

□

AB 1179  
Page

4

Junior Leagues of California State Public Affairs Committee  
Maidu Cultural & Development Group  
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.  
Northern California Society of Public Health Educators  
Parents Television Council  
PLS-Domestic Violence Services  
Plumas County Child Care and Development Planning Council  
Portola C.A.R.E.S. Resource Center  
Santa Clara County After-School Collaborative  
Sierra Valley Even Start Family Literacy Program  
Stanislaus County Children's Council  
Support Network for Battered Women  
Sutter Lakeside Community Services

OPPOSITION : (Verified 8/30/05) (as listed on the Assembly Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism and Internet Media Committee analysis for AB 450)

American Civil Liberties Union  
American Electronics Association  
California Broadcasters Association  
California Chamber of Commerce  
California Retailers Association  
Entertainment Software Association  
Interactive Entertainment Merchants Association  
Interactive Entertainment Merchants Association  
International Game Developers Association  
Motion Picture Association

National Association of Theatre Owners of California/Nevada  
Recording Industry Association of America  
The Media Coalition  
Video Software Dealers Association

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT : The author's office indicates that the purpose of this bill is to "keep children from being able to purchase ultra-violent video games, which can be harmful to their mental well being, without their parent's knowledge."

The author's office reports that "since teens are wiring the circuits for self control, responsibility and relationships they will carry with them into adulthood, they are more impressionable than we thought. Active participation by youth in playing violent video games has a

□

AB 1179  
Page

5

greater impact than watching television. Youth choose actions where they are rewarded for causing violence to another character. Repetition greatly increases learning and also causes youth to identify with the aggressor in the game. Dozens of studies on violent video games, including an analysis of 86 independent samples with 11,014 participants, show five major effects: playing violent games leads to increased physiological arousal, increased aggressive thoughts, increased aggressive feelings, increased aggressive behaviors, and decreased pro-social or helping behaviors (Anderson, 2004; Anderson, et. al. 2004; Anderson & Bushman, 2001, Uhlmann & Swanson, 2004). These studies prove causation of aggression through experimental studies (that show playing violent games actually causes increases in aggression), real-world aggression through correlational studies (where long-term relations between game play and real-world aggression can be shown), and include several longitudinal studies (where changes in children's aggressive behaviors can be demonstrated). Furthermore, students who played more violent video games had greater involvement in physical fights (Gentile, 2004), became desensitized to violence, and developed pro-violence attitudes and increased tolerance of violence (Funk, 2004). The American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement on Media Violence stated that playing violent video games accounts for a 13 percent to 22 percent increase in adolescents' violent behavior. When considering the negative impact violent video games have on youth, the evidence is strong: playing violent video games has more effect on increased youth aggression than second-hand smoke has on causing cancer, or lead exposure links to decreased IQ (Anderson, 2004).

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION : The California Retailers Association (CRA) argues that the bill "uses phrases that require subjective interpretation, judgment, constructs, opinion, valuation, appraisal and an ability to gauge measures and norms that are not within the capability or purview of a retailer." The CRA also opines that the bill "would require retailers to individually play/view all

video games they sell and make individual and independent determinations whether each game fits the criteria for 'violent'" (e.g. "what is 'patently offensive to community standards'" or to "judge a game's artistic or literary

□

AB 1179  
Page

6

value?[or] 'interpret mental torture'").

RJG:nl 9/22/05 Senate Floor Analyses

SUPPORT/OPPOSITION: SEE ABOVE

\*\*\*\*\* END \*\*\*\*\*